1790.

2

QUERIES

Drawn up for the purpoſe of elucidating

THE NATURAL HISTORY AND POLITICAL STATE

OF

SCOTLAND.

[Appendix. — Miscellanies.]

THE following Queries are taken, partly from Count Berchtold's Eſſay to direct the inquiries of Patriotic Travellers, and partly from a Liſt of Queries originally printed in the Gentleman's Magazine for April 1755, and afterwards reprinted in the Scots Magazine for January 1772. But many alterations and additions were judged neceſſary, to adapt them to the State of this Country, and the objects of the Author.

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QUESTIONS *reſpecting the* GEOGRAPHY *and* NATURAL HISTORY *of the* PARISH.

1. What is the ancient and modern name of the pariſh?
2. What the origin and etymology of the name?
3. In what county is it ſituated?
4. In what preſbytery and ſynod?
5. What is the extent and form of the pariſh?
6. What its length and breadth?
7. By what pariſhes is it bounded?
8. What is the general appearance of the country? Is it flat or hilly, rocky or mountainous?
9. What is the nature of the ſoil? Is it fertile or barren, deep or ſhallow?
10. What is the nature of the air? Is it moiſt or dry, unhealthy or otherwiſe?
11. What are the moſt prevalent diſtempers? and to what circumſtances are they attributed?
12. Are there any mineral ſprings? and in what diſeaſes are they ſerviceable?
13. Are there any conſiderable lakes or rivers in the pariſh?
14. What ſpecies of fiſh do they produce? In what quantities? What prices do they fetch on the ſpot? And in what ſeaſons are they in the greateſt perfection?
15. Are the rivers navigable? or might they be rendered uſeful in navigation?
16. Are there any navigable canals in the pariſh?
17. What is the extent of ſea-coaſt?
18. Is the ſhore flat, ſandy, high, or rocky?
19. What ſorts of fiſh are caught on the coaſt? In what quantity? At what prices ſold? When moſt in ſeaſon? How taken? And to what markets ſent?
20. What other ſea animals, plants, ſponges, corals, ſhells, &c. are found on or near the coaſt?
21. Are there any remarkable ſea weeds uſed for manuring land, or curious on any other account?
22. Is there any kelp? and what quantity at an average is annually made?
23. What are the courſes of the tides on the ſhore or at ſea? and are there any rocks, currents, &c. worthy of notice?
24. Are there any lighthouſes, beacons, or land marks? or could any be erected that would be of ſervice?
25. What are the names of the principal creeks, bays, harbours, head lands, ſands, or iſlands, near the coaſt?
26. Have there been any battles or ſea fights near the coaſt? and when did any remarkable wrecks or accidents happen, which can give light to any hiſtorical fact?
27. Are there any remarkable mountains? and what are their heights?
28. Are the hills covered with heath, green, or rocky?
29. Are there any volcanic appearances in the pariſh?
30. Are there any figured ſtones, or any having the impreſſion of plants or fiſhes on them?
31. Are there any foſſil marine bodies, ſuch as ſhells, corals, &c. or any petrified part of animals? or any petrifying ſprings or waters?
32. Are there any marble, moorſtone, freeſtone, ſlate, or other ſtones? How are they got at, and what uſe is made of them?
33. Are there any mines, particularly coal-mines? What are they? To whom do they belong? And what do they produce?
34. Is any part of the pariſh ſubject to inundations or land floods? When did any remarkable event of that nature happen?
35. Hath there been any remarkable miſchief done by thunder and lightning, water-ſpouts or whirlwinds?
36. Are there any remarkable echoes?
37. Have any remarkable phœnomena been obſerved in the air?
38. Are there any remarkable caves or grottos, natural or artificial?
39. What quadrupeds and birds are there in the pariſh? What migratory birds? and at what times do they appear and diſappear?
40. Is the pariſh remarkable for breeding any cattle of peculiar qualities, ſize or value?

II. QUESTIONS *reſpecting the* POPULATION *of the* PARISH.

41. What was the ancient ſtate of the population of the pariſh, ſo far as it can now be traced?
42. What is now the amount of its population?
43. What may be the number of males?
44. What of females?
45. How many reſide in towns?
46. ——— in villages?
47. ——— in the country?
48. What is the annual average of births?
49. ——— of deaths *?
50. ——— of marriages?
51. ——— of ſouls under 10 years of age?
52. ——— from 10 to 20?
53. ——— from 20 to 50?
54. ——— from 50 to 70?
55. ——— from 70 to 100?
56. Above 100?
57. Are there any inſtances of long lives well authenticated?
58. What may be the number of farmers and their families?
59. ——— of manufacturers?

* It is of peculiar importance to have the queſtions 48 and 49 diſtinctly anſwered; for it is generally underſtood, that the population of any diſtrict or country may be known with ſufficient accuracy, by multiplying the number of births by 26, or the number of deaths by 36. It is very deſirable alſo, to have the number of births and deaths ſtated, in order to aſcertain whether the population is increaſing or decreaſing.

60. What may be the number of handycraftſmen?
61. ——— apprentices?
62. ——— ſeamen?
63. ——— fiſhermen?
64. ——— ferrymen?
65. ——— miners?
66. ——— houſehold ſervants, male and female?
67. ——— labouring ſervants, male and female?
68. ——— ſtudents of colleges and univerſities?
69. ——— merchants, citizens or tradeſmen?
70. ——— artiſts?
71. ——— Jews?
72. ——— negroes?
73. ——— gipſies?
74. ——— foreigners?
75. ——— perſons born in England, Ireland, or the Britiſh colonies?
76. ——— perſons born in other diſtricts or pariſhes in Scotland?
77. ——— of the nobility and their families?
78. ——— of the gentry?
79. ——— of the clergy?
80. ——— of lawyers and writers or attornies?
81. ——— of phyſicians, ſurgeons and apothecaries?
82. ——— of the eſtabliſhed church?
83. ——— of ſeceders?
84. ——— of epiſcopalians?
85. ——— of Roman catholics?

86. Is the population of the pariſh materially different from what it was 5, 10, or 25 years ago? and to what cauſes is the alteration attributed?

87. What is the proportion between the annual births and the whole population?
88. ——— between the annual marriages and the whole population?
89. ——— between the annual deaths and the whole population?
90. ——— between the batchelors and the married men, widowers included?
91. How many children does each marriage at an average produce?
92. What may be the cauſes of depopulation?
93. Are there any deſtructive epidemical diſtempers?
94. Have any died from want?
95. Have any murders or ſuicides been committed?
96. Have many emigrated from the pariſh?
97. Have any been baniſhed from it?
98. Have any been obliged to leave the pariſh for want of employment?
99. Are there any uninhabited houſes?
100. What may be the number of inhabited houſes, and the number of perſons at an average to each inhabited houſe?

III. Questions *reſpecting the* Productions *of the* Parish.

101. What kinds of vegetables, plants and trees, does the pariſh produce?
102. What kinds of animals?
103. What at an average is ſuppoſed to be the number of cattle, ſheep and horſes in the diſtrict?
104. Is there any map of the pariſh? and has the number of acres in it been aſcertained?
105. How many acres at an average may be employed in raiſing corn, roots, &c.?
106. What number of acres to each ſort reſpectively, as wheat, barley, rye, oats, potatoes, turnip, cabbage, &c.?
107. Does the pariſh ſupply itſelf with proviſions?
108. Does it in general export or import articles of proviſion?
109. How many acres are employed in raiſing hemp or flax?
110. How many in ſow'n or artificial graſſes?
111. How many in paſture?
112. When do they in general ſow and reap their different crops?
113. What quantity of ground may lie waſte or in common?
114. What in woods, foreſts, marſhes, lakes and rivers?
115. Is there any chalk, marle, fullers earth, potters earth, ochre, &c.?
116. Are there any bitumen, naptha, or other ſubſtances of that nature found in the ſoil?

IV. Miscellaneous Questions.

117. Has the pariſh any peculiar advantages or diſadvantages?
118. What language is principally ſpoken in it?
119. From what language do the names of places in the pariſh ſeem to be derived?
120. What are the moſt remarkable inſtances of ſuch derivations?
121. What may the land rent of the pariſh be?
122. What the rent of houſes, fiſhings, &c.?
123. What is the value of the living, including the glebe? and who is the patron?
124. Who is now miniſter of the pariſh?
125. How long has he been ſettled in it?
126. What are the names of his predeceſſors as far back as they can now be traced, and the time they reſpectively held that office?
127. Is the miniſter married, a widower, or ſingle?
128. If with a family, how many ſons, and how many daughters?
129. When were the church and the manſe built or repaired?
130. What is the number of heritors, or poſſeſſors of landed property in the pariſh?
131. How many of them reſide in it?
132. What is the number of the poor in the pariſh receiving alms?
133. What is the annual amount of the contributions for their relief, and the produce of alms, legacies, or of any other fund deſtined for that purpoſe?
134. What are the preſent or ancient prices of proviſions, beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork, pigs, geeſe, ducks, chickens, rabbits, butter, cheeſe, wheat, barley, oats, &c.?
135. What is generally a day's wages for labourers in huſbandry, and other work? and what *per* day for carpenters, bricklayers, maſons, taylors, &c.?
136. What is the fuel commonly made uſe of? Is it coal, wood, heath, peat, furze, or whins? What are the prices paid on the ſpot; and whence is the fuel procured?
137. What at an average may be the expence of a common labourer, when married? and is the wages he receives ſufficient to enable him to bring up a family *?
138. What are the uſual wages of male and female ſervants in the different branches of huſbandry?
139. What the wages of domeſtic ſervants?
140. How many ploughs are there in the pariſh? and of what kinds?
141. How many carts and waggons?
142. How many carriages; and of what ſorts?
143. Are there any villages in the pariſh? and how are they ſituated?
144. Are there any croſſes or obeliſks erected in the pariſh?
145. Are there any remains or ruins of monaſteries or religious houſes?
146. Are there any Roman, Saxon, Daniſh, or Pictiſh caſtles, camps, altars, roads, forts, or other remains of antiquity? and what traditions or hiſtorical accounts are there of them?
147. Have there been any medals, coins, arms, or other pieces of antiquity dug up in the pariſh? When were they found? And in whoſe cuſtody are they now?
148. Are there any barrows, or tumili? Have any been opened? And what has been found therein?
149. Have there been any remarkable battles fought in the pariſh? On what ſpot? At what time? By whom? And what traditions are there reſpecting the ſame?
150. Has the pariſh either given birth or burial to any man eminent for learning; or diſtinguiſhed for any other valuable qualification?
151. Are the people of the country remarkable for ſtrength, ſize, complexion, or any other perſonal or mental qualities?
152. What is the general ſize of the people?
153. What is the greateſt height which any individual in the pariſh has attained, properly authenticated?
154. Are the people diſpoſed to induſtry? What manufactures are carried on in the pariſh? And what number of hands are employed therein?
155. Are the people fond of a ſeafaring life? What is the number of boats and of larger veſſels belonging to the pariſh? And what number of ſeamen have entered into the Navy during any preceding war?
156. Are the people fond of a military life? Do many inliſt in the army? And principally in what corps?
157. Are the people economical, or expenſive and luxurious for their circumſtances? Is property, particularly in land, often changing? And at what prices is it in general ſold?
158. Are the people diſpoſed to humane and generous actions; to protect and relieve the ſhipwrecked, &c.? and are there any events which have happened in the pariſh, which do honour to human nature?
159. Do the people, on the whole, enjoy in a reaſonable degree, the comforts and advantages of ſociety? and are they contented with their ſituation and circumſtances?
160. Are there any means by which their condition could be ameliorated?

The Situation of the Poor in England, and the Manner in which they live, may be seen from the following Account.
It would be very desirable to have similar Statements drawn up in different Parts of Scotland.

Account of the Families.

No. 1. A Man, his Wife and 5 children, the eldeſt 8 years of age, the youngeſt an infant.

No. 2. A woman, whoſe Huſband is run away, and 6 children, the eldeſt a boy 16 years of age, the next a boy aged 13, the youngeſt 5: 4 of the children too young to earn any thing.

No. 3. A Man, his Wife, and 4 ſmall children, the eldeſt under 6 years of age, the youngeſt an infant.

No. 4. A Man, his Wife, and 3 ſmall children, the eldeſt not quite 5 years old, the youngeſt an infant.

No. 5. A Man, his Wife, and 3 young children, the eldeſt 6 years of age, the youngeſt an infant.

No. 6. A Man, his Wife, and 2 young children, the eldeſt 7 years of age, the youngeſt 4.

Expences and Earnings of 6 Families of Labourers, by the Week, and by the Year.

NECESSARIES.	No. 1. 7 *Perſons.*			No. 2. 7 *Perſons.*			No. 3. 6 *Perſons*			No. 4. 5 *Perſons*			No. 5. 5 *Perſons.*			No. 6. 4 *Perſons.*		
Expences per Week.	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Bread or flour	0	6	3	0	5	5	0	5	0	0	2	6½	0	3	9	0	4	2
Yeaſt and Salt	0	0	4	0	0	3½	0	0	3½	0	0	2½	0	0	3	0	0	3
Bacon or other meat	0	0	8	0	1	4	0	0	8	0	1	9	0	1	1	0	1	0
Tea, ſugar, butter	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2½	0	1	0	0	0	10
Cheeſe, (ſeldom any)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2½	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beer (ſeldom any)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soap, ſtarch, blue	0	0	2½	0	0	2½	0	0	2¼	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	2¾
Candles	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3
Thread, thrum, worſted	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	3
Total	0	8	11¼	0	8	9	0	7	7¾	0	6	11¼	0	7	8	0	6	11¼
Amount *per annum*	23	4	9	22	15	0	19	17	7	18	0	9	19	18	8	18	0	9
Earnings per Week.	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The Man earns at a medium	0	8	0	Pariſh pay.	5	0	0	8	0	0	8	4	0	8	0	0	8	0
The Woman	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	6
The Children	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	8	6	0	9	0	0	8	6	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	8	6
Amount *per annum*	22	2	0	23	8	0	22	2	0	23	8	0	23	8	0	22	2	0
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
To the above amount of expences *per annum*	23	4	9	22	15	0	19	17	7	18	0	9	19	18	8	18	0	9
Add rent, fuel, clothes, lying-in	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0	0
Total expences *per annum*	29	4	9	28	15	0	25	17	7	24	0	9	25	18	8	24	0	9
Total earnings *per annum*	22	2	0	23	8	0	22	2	0	23	8	0	23	8	0	22	2	0
Deficiency of earnings	7	2	9	5	7	0	3	15	7	0	12	9	2	10	8	1	18	9

Annual Expences.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Rent of a cottage and garden, from 1 l. 5 s. to 2 l. 2 s. ſay	1	10	0
Fuel, if bought, coſts 12 s. but reckoned here at a week's wages, becauſe a man can in a week cut turf enough on the common to ſerve the year, and the farmers give the carriage for the aſhes.	0	8	0
Clothing. The man's wear of a ſuit *per annum*, 5 s.; wear of a working jacket and breeches, 4 s.; 2 ſhirts, 8 s.; 1 pair of ſtout ſhoes nailed, 7 s.; 2 pair of ſtockings, 4 s.; hat, handkerchief, &c. 2 s.—Sum 1 l. 10 s.—The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 4 s.; 1 ſhift, 3 s. 6 d.; 1 pair of ſtrong ſhoes, 4 s.; 1 pair of ſtockings, 1 s. 6 d.; 2 aprons, 3 s; hankerchiefs, caps, &c. 4 s.—Sum 1 l.—But as few poor people can every year beſtow on themſelves the ſums here ſuppoſed, let the children's clothing (partly made up of the parents old clothes, partly bought at ſecond hand) be included, and the whole *eſtimated* at	2	10	0
Lying-in, ſickneſs and loſs of time thereby, burials and loſs of time by extreme bad weather, *eſtimated* one year with another, at	1	12	0
Rent, fuel, clothing, lying-in, &c. are ſet down in the columns at 6 l. to *every* family alike, becauſe it is the *leaſt* ſum at which thoſe articles can well be reckoned.	6	0	0

Price of the half-peck loaf of wheaten bread	0	0	11½
—— of the gallon of flour	0	0	10
—— of a week's labour in winter	0	7	0
—— of a week's labour, where the labourer is employed conſtantly, all weather, the year through	0	8	0

The tea uſed *per* family, is from 1 to 1½ oz. *per* week, at 2 d. *per* oz.
Soft ſugar, ½ lb. at 7 d. to 8 d. *per* lb.
Salt butter or lard, ½ lb. at 7½ d. to 8 d. *per* lb.
Poor people reckon cheeſe the deareſt article they can buy.
Malt is ſo dear, they ſeldom brew any ſmall beer, except againſt a lying-in or a chriſtening.
To eke out ſoap, they burn *green* fern, and knead the aſhes into balls, with which they make a ley for waſhing.
In No. 5. the woman waſhes for one or two ſingle labourers; for which reaſon 6 d. is charged for ſoap.
In No. 4. the charge for bread is conſiderably leſs than in the others; becauſe that family, by buying a whole hog at once, has for the ſame money almoſt double the quantity of meat, which the others get who buy by retail; and that greater quantity of meat, with greens and potatoes, makes the bread go farther.
It appears from the preceding account, that the poor in England live in a very different ſtile from thoſe of Scotland, and the earnings of the woman ſeem to be very inconſiderable indeed; for by ſpinning only, many women in Scotland gain, inſtead of 6 d. or even 1 s. at the rate of from 2 s. 6 d. to 3s. 6 d. *per* week.

ADDENDA.

1. What is the ſtate of the roads and bridges in the pariſh? How were they originally made? How are they kept in repair? Is the ſtatute labour exacted in kind, or commuted? Are there any turnpikes? and what is the general opinion of the advantages of turnpike roads?

2. What is in general the rent of the beſt arable and the beſt paſture or meadow grounds, *per* acre? What the rent of inferior?

3. What in general is the ſize and the average rent of the farms in the pariſh? And is the number of farms increaſing or diminiſhing?

4. Is the pariſh in general incloſed, or unincloſed? And are the people convinced of the advantages of incloſures?

5. What was the ſituation of the pariſh *Anno* 1782 and 1783? Pleaſe ſtate any curious or important circumſtances connected with that era, or with any other ſeaſon of ſcarcity.

6. Are there any curious or important facts tending to prove any great alteration in the manners, cuſtoms, dreſs, ſtile of living, &c. of the inhabitants of the pariſh, now, and 20 or 50 years ago?

N. B. If you reſide in a town or city, pleaſe give an account of the hiſtory and antiquities of the place; of its buildings, age, walls, ſieges, charters, privileges, immunities, gates, ſtreets, markets, fairs; the number of churches, wards, guilds, companies, fraternities, clubs, &c.: How the town is governed: if it is repreſented in parliament, to whom does the right of election belong, and what the number of electors? together with a compariſon between its ancient and modern ſtate, in regard to population, commerce, ſhipping, fiſheries, manufactures, more particularly at the following periods; about the time of the Union, ſince the year 1745, and at preſent.

It may be proper to add, that many important facts and obſervations may occur to thoſe to whom this paper is addreſſed, not hinted at in the queries, which it would be particularly obliging in any gentleman to add to any anſwer which he may take the trouble of drawing up.

EDINBURGH,
May 25. 1790.

Sir John Sinclair

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty of tranſmitting the incloſed Queries to you, in hopes that a plan, which has been fortunate enough to meet with the approbation of ſome of the moſt reſpectable and diſtinguiſhed characters in theſe kingdoms, will be favoured with your aſſiſtance.

To procure information with regard to the real political ſituation of a country, is what wiſe Stateſmen in every age have thought deſirable, but which in theſe enlightened times is juſtly held of the moſt eſſential public importance *.

In many parts of the Continent, more particularly in Germany, ſtatiſtical *inquiries as they are called*†, *have been carried to a very great extent; but in no country, it is believed, can they be brought to ſuch perfection as in Scotland, which boaſts of an eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment, whoſe members will yield to no deſcription of men, for public zeal, as well as for private virtue, for intelligence, and for ability.*

I flatter myſelf, that upon this occaſion they will not be backward in contributing their aid to promote an attempt which may prove of conſiderable ſervice to the country at large, and cannot fail to add to the reputation and character, which the Church of Scotland has already ſo deſervedly acquired for public utility.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient,

And faithful humble ſervant,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

EDINBURGH, May 25. 1790.

* The ancients frequently inculcated this idea: " Ad conſilium de republica dandum, caput eſt, noſſe rempublicam." *Cicero de Oratore*, lib. 2. " In republica cognoſcenda, multam, magnamque curam habui, uti quantum armis, viris, " opulentia, ea poſſet; cognitum haberem." *Salluſt. ad Cæſar. de Republ. ordin. Epiſt. ſeu Orat.* 2. *cap.* 1. And M. de Hertſberg, the Prime Miniſter of Pruſſia, very juſtly remarks, " Qu'on reconnoit de plus en plus, que la grande po- " litique ne conſiſte pas dans le myſtere dont les gouvernmens ſe couvroient jadis, mais que ceux qui agiſſent a decou- " vert avec publicité et franchiſe, gagnent beaucoup plus la confiance, des ſujets, et des voiſins." *Diſſertation ſur la Population des Etats en general, et ſur celle des Etats Pruſſiens en particulier. Anno* 1785.

† Or, *Inquiries reſpecting the Population, the Political Circumſtances, the Productions of a Country, and other* Matters of State.

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N. B. It is not expected that all the incloſed Queries ſhould be anſwered by any individual; nor is minute exactneſs looked for: but it is requeſted, that as many queſtions may be attended to, as circumſtances will admit of.

In the event of a vacancy in the pariſh, or where the preſent incumbent is prevented, by ſickneſs or otherwiſe, from ſending an anſwer, it is intreated that ſome neighbouring clergyman would take that trouble upon himſelf.

It is ſubmitted, whether it might not be proper to inſert the Queries and Anſwers in any parochial regiſter, that in after times the future ſtate of the pariſh may be compared with its ſituation at preſent.

Any anſwer to theſe Queries may be directed to Sir John Sinclair of Ulbſter, Baronet, Member of Parliament, Edinburgh, who will thankfully acknowledge the receipt of any paper upon this ſubject that may be addreſſed to him.

It may be proper to add, that if it is thought adviſable to publiſh ſuch an account of Scotland, as may be drawn up from the materials to be thus collected, that any profit that can be derived from the publication, is to be dedicated to an inſtitution lately formed, for the benefit of the ſons of the clergy of the church of Scotland, which ſeems to merit every poſſible encouragement.